

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A disk array device comprising:
 - a channel adapter that controls data transmission and reception with a high-order device located external to the disk array device;
 - a storage device that stores data;
 - a storage device control board to which the storage device is connected;
 - a disk adapter that is connected to the storage device via the storage device control board and controls data transmission and reception with the storage device; and
 - a management unit that is respectively connected to the disk adapter and the channel adapter, wherein
 - the storage device control board includes
 - a connection circuit that is connected to the storage device, and
 - switch circuits that are respectively disposed at an input side and an output side of the connection circuit and are switchable between a connected mode where they are connected to anotheran adjacent storage device control board and an independent mode where they are separated from the ~~ether~~adjacent storage device control board, and

the switch circuits are switchable between the connected mode and the independent mode by an output signal from the management unit.

2. (currently amended) The disk array device of claim 1, wherein the storage device control board and the ~~ether adjacent~~ storage device control board are respectively mounted on a same attachment-use board.

3. (currently amended) The disk array device of claim 1, wherein ~~in a case where~~when the switch circuits are in the connected mode, the storage device control board and the ~~ether adjacent~~ storage device control board are respectively ~~both~~ connected to the ~~same~~-disk adapter, and

~~in a case where~~when the switch circuits are in the independent mode, the storage device control board ~~is connected to the disk adapter~~ and the ~~ether adjacent~~ storage device control board ~~are~~is connected to ~~a second disk adapter~~respectively different disk adapters ~~different than the disk adapter~~.

4. (currently amended) The disk array device of claim 1, wherein the storage device includes a first port and a second port, with the first port and the second port being connected to respectively different storage device control boards and the ~~different~~ storage device control boards being connected to respectively different disk adapters.

5. (original) The disk array device of claim 1, wherein the connection circuit is configured by any of a port bypass circuit and a fibre channel switch.

6. (original) The disk array device of claim 4, wherein respectively different colors are associated with input-side connectors and output-side connectors with which the disk adapter and the storage device control board are disposed, and respectively different colors are associated with signal lines associated with the first port and signal lines associated with the second port of signal lines connecting the respective connectors to each other.

7. – 8. (canceled)